

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Cancel claims 2 and 13 – 16, without prejudice.

**Listing of Claims:**

2 and 13-16, cancelled.

**CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A starting device (100) for ~~at least one an~~ internal combustion engine, in particular a pull-rope type starting device for ~~at least one~~ a two-stroke or four-stroke motor, which comprises at least one pulley or rope drum (4) which is rotatably held in ~~at least one~~ a housing (1), wherein said starting device, for generating the drive torque for the a motor shaft by means of ~~at least one a~~ handle (10), in particular by means of ~~at least one a~~ a starter handle or pull handle, is rotatable by way of ~~at least one a~~ load transfer means (9), in particular by way of ~~at least one a~~ a starter rope or pull-rope, and by way of ~~at least one an~~ elastic coupling element (6), in particular by way of ~~at least one a~~ spiral spring, is connected to ~~at least one an~~ engaging element (5), in particular to ~~at least one a~~ a ratchet-type engaging element, by means of which the drive torque can be transmitted to the motor shaft,

characterised in that

the angle of rotation by which the ratchet-type engaging element (5) is rotatable in relation to the pulley or rope drum (4) by exerting a load on the elastic coupling element (6) is limitable to ~~at least one a~~ specifiable maximum angular value by a limit stop arranged on an the underside of the engaging element, which underside faces the pulley or rope drum.

2. Canceled.

3. (Currently amended) The starting device according to claim 2 1, characterised in that the limit stop ~~(13; 13')~~ is shaped as a circular segment or arc-shaped segment, and/or is guided in a guide groove ~~(14; 14')~~, in particular formed in the manner of a section of an arc of a circle, with said guide groove ~~(14; 14')~~ being provided in the pulley or rope drum ~~(4)~~.
4. (Currently amended) The starting device according to claim 2 ~~or~~ 3, characterised in that, for the purpose of achieving the maximum angular value, the limit stop ~~(13; 13')~~ comes to rest against ~~at least one a~~ rest surface ~~(15; 15')~~ in particular at the end of the guide groove ~~(14; 14')~~.
5. (Currently amended) The starting device according to claim 4, characterised in that the rest surface ~~(15; 15')~~ is formed by the closed end of the guide groove ~~(14; 14')~~ and/or in the form of ~~at least one a~~ limit stop damping device, in particular a limit stop damping device made of elastomer material, provided for damped stopping of the rotary movement.
6. (Currently amended) The starting device according to ~~at least one of claims 2 to 5~~ claim 1, characterised in that two limit stops ~~(13, 13')~~ are provided which are arranged so as to be essentially diametrically opposed to each other, and/or so as to be offset by approximately 180 degrees in relation to each other.
7. (Currently amended) The starting device according to claim 6, characterised in that each of the two limit stops ~~(13, 13')~~ is guided in ~~at least one a~~ respective guide groove ~~(14, 14')~~ each, and in that the two guide grooves ~~(14, 14')~~ are arranged in the pulley or rope drum ~~(4)~~ so as to be essentially mirror inverted, and/or so as to be offset by approximately 180 degrees in relation to each other.

8. (Currently amended) The starting device according to claim 6 or 7, characterised in that, for the purpose of achieving the maximum angular value, the two limit stops (13, 13') come to rest against their respective rest surfaces (15, 15') at the same time, in particular at the end of the their respective guide groove (14, 14').
9. (Currently amended) The starting device according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, characterised in that the maximum angular value which is provided when the starting device (100) is activated, in particular when the handle (10) is pulled, is in the magnitude of approximately 270 degrees to approximately 280 degrees divided by the number of limit stops (13, 13') used, i.e. in particular in the magnitude of approximately 270 degrees to approximately 280 degrees if one limit stop (13) is provided; or in the magnitude of approximately 135 degrees to approximately 140 degrees if two limit stops (13, 13') are provided.
10. (Currently amended) The starting device according to ~~at least one of claims~~ claim 1 to 9, characterised in that in the case of the coupling element (6) failing or breaking down, the engaging element (5) is rotatable if the starting device (100) is activated, in particular if the handle (10) is pulled.
11. (Currently amended) The starting device according to ~~at least one of claims 2 to 8 and according to claim 10~~ 4, characterised in that in the case of the coupling element (6) failing or breaking down, the engaging element (5), as a result of the limit stop (13) resting against the rest surface (15), is rotatable when the starting device (100) is activated, in particular when the handle (10) is pulled.
12. (Currently amended) The starting device according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, characterised in that the coupling element (6) is

pretensioned or comprises pretension.

13. Canceled.
14. Canceled.
15. Canceled.
16. Canceled.
17. (New). The starting device according to claim 1, wherein the internal combustion engine is associated with a work tool.
18. (New). The starting device according to claim 17, wherein the work tool comprises a portable hand tool comprising a brush cutter, a chain saw, a motor saw, or an abrasive cutting-off machine.